

MONKTON COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Monkton Combe Parish held at 7:30 p.m. on 23rd April 2018 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr. Des Wighton (Chairman), and five other members of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk, and 9 members of the Parish.

1. Apologies for absence: Gavin Douglas

2. Chairman's Report. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He then summarised the Annual Report, which has been distributed to households within the Parish, highlighting the main points. Of particular note was the meeting to be held by Truespeed, in the village at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, to present their Broadband facilities for the area.

3a. Monkton Combe School: Tom Davies from the School gave a summary of the School Estates projects and how these impact the village. In particular he discussed road safety for pupils crossing from their boarding to the school, which will be subject of a survey to determine the most appropriate solution. The Farmhouse crossing was highlighted as a problem.

He talked about the School estates masterplan with particular mention of the removal of parking in the quad, with completion of Governors Field to accommodate the parking. There were no plans to include rerouting of the cycle path around it, even though there is a desire on the part of all concerned to reroute this path.

There were questions from the electors regarding the brightness of the lights on one of the buildings near the chapel, due to the angle of the light itself. Also a question regarding the removal of Ragwort from school land, and Tom Davies undertook to speak to ground staff about this. It was also mentioned that the introduction of traffic mirrors was thought to be very helpful.

3b. St Michael's and All Angels Church. Mike Wareham reported that the church had been without a vicar for nine months since Paul Kenchington left. This had been covered by a transitional minister, and from 6th September Mr. Shawn Swinney take over the post, but will also have 4 churches to look after.

He also reported that successful craft fairs have been organized and others are planned for the coming year. That the church was looking to improve or replace the heating system. Also there had been a successful harvest lunch and that meditations sessions were now taking place on Saturdays.

3c. Village Hall Committee: Councillor Des Wighton provided a report from the Village Hall Committee on the year's activities. He introduced the new treasurer, Stuart Mitchell.

Events in 2017 were the Burns Night Supper which was again successful and the WI again provided an excellent meal and thanks were given to the WI for all their work and efforts. The village barbecue was inadvertently organised for the same date as the Wellow Country Fair, so numbers were insufficient and the barbecue was therefore cancelled. This year's event is organised for July 14th which is Bastille Day and so there will be a French theme to the event. There had been a comedy night with a Fish and Chip supper which had also been a successful event.

In respect of the Hall itself maintenance and repairs are a significant concern, especially the village hall floor which is now being consider for complete replacement. As the village hall has a good surplus of funds, it will look to carrying out these works in August with the assistance of the Parish Council. The best way to deal with the wall panelling will also be considered at this time.

There are good bookings for the hall which generates a steady income which in turn is generating a good surplus year on year.

3d. Women's Institute. Pat Lowe gave an overview of the WI group which was founded in 1915, and activities in the year. She said there was good turnout to meetings with some 40 members, many of whom were of a younger generation. The many groups, which are open anyone, included Walking and Crafts at which bobble hats for the RUH had been made.

4. Other matters highlighted or discussed:-

Tim Wheeldon asked about the official name of Trollopes Hill and what signage if any existed to support this.

Stuart Mitchell proposed a vote of thanks to the Parish Council for their work throughout the year and for the meeting, and Pat Lowe asked the chair to introduce each member of the council to the meeting in order that they could put names to faces.

The meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.